

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 1873.

The State Legislature will convene at Harrisburg on Tuesday of next week.

The new Constitution will become the fundamental law of the State—January 1st, 1874.

JUDGE HAGERT, Democrat, has been elected to the United States Senate from California for the short term.

The Republican papers are beginning to admit that the past frauds in Philadelphia gave the party its majority.

ADAMS, Blair, Dauphin, Greene, Indiana, Lebanon and Somerset counties voted against the new Constitution.

The surviving crew of the Virginians arrived at New York on Saturday, and are to be kept together until the whole matter is investigated.

The engineers on the railroads west of Pittsburgh operated by the Pennsylvania Central, are on strike against a reduction of ten per cent. in their wages. Violence was feared at Columbus and other points.

This jury in the Price will case, at Frederick, Md., was discharged on Saturday, without a verdict, having failed to agree. They stood severally to five against the will. The trial of the case occupied twenty days, and the jury was out four days.

THE President has appointed Hon. Caleb Cushing Minister to Spain, in place of D. E. Sickles, resigned. Mr. Cushing has accepted, and will start for Madrid early in January. He is understood to be in entire accord with the State Department in regard to our relations with Spain.

Great preparations are being made for the inauguration of Governor Allen, in Ohio, on the 12th of January. The Democrats are of the opinion that, as they have not had a Governor for twenty years, it is a good time to show what they can do when they have one.

A MAJORITY of the Senators, it is understood, do not agree with the House in desiring a total repeal of the Bankrupt act, but favor its amendment in such a way as to leave the question of involuntary bankruptcy to be determined by the creditors most largely interested.

The Tammany Hall General Committee, in New York, adopted resolutions, on Saturday night, congratulating the people on the conviction and punishment of the ring thieves, and thanking the judges, juries, and attorneys who have vindicated law and justice in their case.

A POINT WELL TAKEN.—The New York Sun very truly and justly observes: "Isn't it worth while to tax every poor man's tea, coffee and tobacco, in order to pay General Grant Fifty Thousand Dollars a year instead of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars, the sum which he agreed to serve for?"

It is evident the Troy Press has some discovered cause for dissatisfaction with the Radical usurpers when it says: "We are told that the Radical party has a mission. It is that of the Western soldier. It would go to the last drop of blood from his fingers' ends—and here comes the qualification—which allies him with Radicalism—if the pay was any reasonable."

AMONG the offices which have been treated as places of personal property is the Presidency of the United States. The patronage of that office in the cases of Sickles and Cramer and Casey and Butler and Williams has been considered and used by Mr. Grant as a personal perquisite. A newspaper of his own political creed has said of him that he has treated the Presidency of the United States as if he "won it in a raffle."

The Constitutional Convention re-assembled at Harrisburg last Saturday, to count the vote of the State. It may also take into consideration matters of interpretation, as indicated in the following from an exchange:

The Constitutional Convention will not be convened again, as it adjourned in Harrisburg. Already a difference of opinion exists as to the time when elections should be held for officers, existing in January, when the instrument ought to be authority upon the spirit as well as the letter.

The Harrisburg Patriot copies our article in regard to the adverse vote of Adams county on the new Constitution, (attributable mainly to the border damage question,) and makes this comment:

The people of Cumberland and Franklin have, as much interest in the Border claims as have the people of Adams county, yet they have taken quite a different view of the question. Its relation to the new constitution.

This is one of the greatest engineering projects of the age, and it is the hands of constructors capable of completing whatever they undertake.

JOHN HOPKINS, who was reported the wealthiest citizen in Baltimore, died on Tuesday morning at his residence in that city, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, after several weeks illness. Since 1812 the deceased had been engaged in active business in Baltimore up to his recent illness. He was prominently identified with all the leading industries, mercantile, commercial, banking, and railroad, and amassed a large fortune. In March last he gave property valued at \$4,000,000 to found a free hospital in that city for the indigent sick and poor, without regard to sex, age, or color, connected with which is a training school for nurses. Mr. Hopkins also provided for founding a university on his valuable estate "Clifton," near the city, setting apart for that purpose it is said 15,000 shares of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock, valued at \$2,000,000.

A TRAGIC accident has happened at Stockton. A fire broke out in the third story of a house occupied by the ballet corps of the Royal theatre. Sixteen unfortunate girls were burned alive, three killed by jumping from windows, and five dangerously hurt, were conveyed to the hospital.

The postmaster of Dayton, Ohio, is undergoing investigation. It seems that he keeps a woman on the pay rolls who is his mistress; that he pays his brother's name on the rolls with his brother does not in any capacity about the office; that he pays his clerks forty dollars a month and draws fifty dollars a month for each of them. This is only a specimen of the manner in which the people are being plundered by different officials under Grant's administration.

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THE FARMER.

THE DEPTH TO PUT MANURE.

One of the advances of modern agricultural science is the knowledge of how the roots of plants feel. At one time a root was a root, and that was all; but it is now well known that the roots are of two classes, only one of which has much to do with furnishing food for the plant. These are commonly known as fibres. They work during the season in taking up manure from the soil, and at the end of the year they mostly die as the leaves do. With the development of the leaves there is a new activity in the root fibres' growth, and many of the old ones die. The novel point in modern knowledge is that these fibrous or feeding roots are always near the surface of the soil.

With this knowledge comes the necessity of modifying old practices of manuring. When it is dug down deep into the soil, or plowed deeply under, it is in a great measure wasted. The true policy now is to keep it as near the surface as possible, so as not to be too much exposed to wasting winds.

The practice of the best agriculturists has been gradually coming to this for years past, without knowing exactly the reason why such good results. Surface manuring has been found in many instances, superior to the old plan of digging in, and has found many intelligent, earnest advocates. We do not know that we can heartily endorse the plan as a general rule of leaving the manure to be entirely on the surface to the action of the hot sun; but, so far as we have seen, it is a model. There is more manure laid, and more honest men are educated to buying and selling than in any other part of the farm.

For the last twenty years I have had all sorts and shapes of horses, from the pony to the shaggin, and the greatest weight in the lead horse is the animal for service. A horse weighing from 1,100 to 1,400 pounds is large enough for farm work.

You must understand what you want an animal for before you go to buy. One minute is long enough to examine the standing points of a horse. These are: A good lively eye, inclined to baste, and a pleasant countenance; a flat leg and open foot; shoulders set rather back, and no objection if it is slightly crooked; the proper shape of the hind legs depends on what you wish the horse to perform.

The prancing blathers are blindness or weak eyes, ringbone, spavin, houndshound, curled or through hocked, sticed, etc., all of which an expert observer will detect in one instant's time. The heaves is the most difficult to detect, as that depends upon the treatment the animal has had for the week previous. The thumps, or pulsating of the heart, may be detected easily, by moving and exciting the horse, and stamping him suddenly. As to the age of a horse having blathers, it depends upon how he has been used until he is six years old; if sound then, he is good for twelve or twenty years' service yet.

Judging the age of a horse by his mouth is very uncertain. You can tell to a certainty within one year until he is six years old, then you must judge from general appearance. Some judges rely on the tusks, but some horses never have any tusks—about the same number of mares have tusks as horses that have none.

Some men will tell you that they know the age of a horse by the jaw, or the wrinkles about the eye, or by the joints of the tail. You might as well say that you know the age of a man by the wrinkles in his face. The wearing of the teeth depends upon the general health and lungs of the animal. Bad teeth follow diseased lungs.

In purchasing a horse, rely upon your judgment, and when you trade, do not ask a neighbor, as every man ought to know his own business. If there is much talking to be done, let the other do it. What you say, let it be to the point, and stand to it.

FIGHTING CHICKENS.

In answer to a correspondent of the Country Gentleman who wants to know where he can get the best breed of game fowls, "S." of Richmond, Va., returns the following answer:

I would like him, and many others like him, if he is looking for gamefowls in reality, or has he, like many others fancying game chickens, mistaken what he does in fact want? Thousands of chickens are annually sold for game, and breed and result and distributed far and wide, that are not game, but they answer the purpose as they are never tried—they are handsome, healthy, beautiful, and have some game in the blood. They are game enough to look handsome, and lay eggs; but you can tell that he has a mind so constructed that he is not calling a tinker by a wagon name, let him see to some of these hentchens coming south of the Potomac river, where they still occasionally fight "a main of cocks." Many of your readers will hold up their hands in holy horror, but, in that case, I think they should stop talking about game fowls, and continue to be satisfied with high-headed mongrels, that will certainly squawk and leave when the cruel steel is driven under their ribs by a more quiet and less stony opponent that means business.

Gone is a property of the mind and nerve, and it may be in a black-fowl, domineering, spoiled, pure white or otherwise; and the only certainty of getting game chicken is to get them from strangers and families and neighborhoods where the cook is tried with 1-inch steel gafts, and see if they will stand in dust and dirt, and be stabbed even to the death, and whether it requires one pass or a hundred—always with face to the foe, and without a quiver or qualm of cowardice; and when at last, blind and cut to pieces alive, he falls over and makes his last flutter in an attempt to reach his enemy, he dies without a groan—Gann! If you do not like this picture, do not be looking for game fowls. The writer has raised them, but he has none to sell.

HOUSEKEEPER.

IMPROVED BUCKWHEAT PANCAKE. Buckwheat pancake is an article largely used; but as generally prepared, it is not fit to serve up at any table. It is heavy and distressing to the stomach, and the batter may be light, yet, when it gets on the griddle it is apt to fall and become the heavy indigestible

TAX APPEALS.

The Committee of Adams County have given notice that they have fixed upon the 1st of January next for the filing of the TAX APPEALS for 1873. In the several townships and Incorporated Townships of Adams County, the time of filing appeals will be between the hours of Five o'clock A.M. and 2 o'clock P.M. on the 1st of January, 1873, except in the Township of Gettysburg, on Monday, Jan. 1, 1873, when the time will be noon.

For the Township of New Oxford, on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1873, at the house of Joseph McKinley, 202 Fauntleroy, 2nd Street, New Oxford.

For the Township of Mount Pleasant, on Monday, Jan. 12, 1873, at the public house of John H. Miller, 100 Main Street, Mount Pleasant.

For the Township of Gettysburg and Union, and the Borough of Littlestown, on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1873, at the public house of John H. Miller, 100 Main Street, Gettysburg.

For the Township of Franklin, on Saturday, Jan. 20, 1873, at the public house of John H. Miller, 100 Main Street, Franklin.

For the Township of Shippensburg, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 1873, at the public house of John H. Miller, 100 Main Street, Shippensburg.

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